**Citrus Native Plant Society**

**Meeting 04 September 2018**

**Crystal Oaks Civic Association 7:00 PM**

Attendance: 42 Members/19 Guests

Plant Donations: 56 Plants, 1 Book

President, Gail Taylor welcomed everyone and recognized guests and new members. First time guests were given a free ticket for the plant donation drawings.   The drawing process was explained. Florida Native Plant membership application process and fees were explained. New members were given the opportunity to choose a plant from the donation table before the drawings begin. Plants for this drawing are donated by members from their gardens. Color Country Nursery donated three plants for our table this month.

Current membership is 108. We have been building our chapter over the last three years and are proud to have reached the 100+ goal. The Florida Native Plant Society now has over 4200 members in 37 chapters statewide. We will elect new chapter officers in November. We need volunteers for officer and board positions. Please consider helping our chapter in the coming year as we continue to grow.

Gail presented the FNPS Green Palmetto Award for Education to Barbara McCormick. Gail read the nomination letter which was submitted to FNPS. She also presented a special gift and a native plant bouquet from CNPS to Barbara for all of her contributions to the chapter.

Upcoming events:

Our chapter will be participating in the Home Show at the Armory on Saturday, Sept. 15th. On that same day we will also be participating in 2 Save Our Waters Week activities, one in Chaz and one on Ozello Trail. Information about participating is on our webpage and on Facebook and include the contact info.

We have a field trip planned on Sept. 22 to visit a native plant nursery and a Botanical Garden in Hernando County. We will be carpooling , so you will need to RSVP to this if you want to participate. Once you RSVP you will receive the time and the location to meet for carpooling.

We also have another event taking place on Saturday, 9/22. It is actually 3 events in one: National Public Lands Day, National Estuaries Day and the Open House at the Marine Science Station from 9 until noon. Our chapter will have an information table at the Crystal River Preserve State Park Visitor’s Center.

We will be honored with a Proclamation from the BOCC in Inverness on Monday, 9/24/18 at 1 PM announcing “Native Plant Month” in Oct. All chapter members are invited to attend for the photo op. You must be there promptly at 1 PM.

We will be celebrating “Native Plant Month” in October with lots of events!

Our October chapter meeting on Tuesday, 10/2 and will be a program on “Wildflowers and Wetlands Plants” presented by chapter members Jodi Lanier and Barbara McCormick. This was the program given at Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park in May.

In addition to this program we have planned several special events. All of this information has been sent out in emails and is posted on our website and our Facebook page. Citrus.fnpschapters.org

10/6 “Plant Identification Basics” at the CRPSP. Must RSVP

10/27 “Step by Step to a Florida Native Yard” at the CRPSP. Must RSVP

These presentations are filling up fast so don’t wait to register.

2 Field trips are part of the celebration, one on Sunday, 10/21 which is an interpretive walk in the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee Forest where the parkway extension will be. RSVP to participate.

The 2nd one is a Fall Wildflowers trip on Wednesday, 10/24 with the new Biologist at the CRPSP to see the fall wildflowers. This field trip is limited to 20 participants since we will be riding a tram out into the CRPSP to see the wildflowers. We will be walking in wooded terrain. You must RSVP by email to attend this event.

The information about the events taking place are sent out in emails and most are also listed on the Facebook page and on our website so check back often since events are being added.

We also have our monthly “weeding days” on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

We have events planned through the end of the year so make sure you are on the email list so that you receive notifications.

Our program, “Garden Party” included presentations from members Leslie Barras, Gail Shafer and Deb Daniels. Leslie shared photos of her new gardens. Gail shared photos of the garden installations that our chapter put in at the fairgrounds. Deb Daniels is in charge of the Wildflowers On Our Roadside program. Deb shared the presentation that she will be giving to the county commissioners for this program. If you are interested in helping with this program, contact Deb Daniels, danielsd@tampabay.rr.com.

For additional events, read emails, look at the CNPS website, or CNPS Facebook page to see upcoming events.

Citrus Native Plant Society on Facebook.

Citrus.fnpschapter.org on the website.

Virginia Hall, CNPS Secretary

Other Items of interest not discussed at the meeting:

Current bank balance $